

Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

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Reference no: 6109

Submitter Type:

Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

I think we need to reduce dependance on these environmentally harmful products in order to fast track research and development on better alternatives. It needs to be simple the degradable plastic is confusing!

Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

Position

less than 50 microns in thickness

Notes

A bag is a bag, phase them all out so retailers can't avoid the ban and continue to create waste rate payers than have to deal with.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

No

Notes

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Position

No

Notes

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

They don't need them, they are environmentally damaging and small businesses have the time and the customer face to face interaction to find an alternative solution.

Clause

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

Notes

0

Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

Position

No

Notes

I think we need to stop sooner, the bags are harmful and just needed. Business has known for years these are not acceptable to

many customers and we want change.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes

Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

Position

Yes

Notes

They are an environmental problem, and they are holding us back from other urgent changes that need to be made in regards to plastic packaging in general. Plastic packaging is putting our food chain and ecosystem at risk.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

I have not used plastic bags for years. Supermarkets have hundreds of boxes they flatten and send out without reusing. It is wasteful and unnecessary.

Clause

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

Position

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

It is just habit, its not hard to keep some bags around.

Clause

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

Notes

We have not used plastic bags for several years.

Clause

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

Notes

I think we need to stop greenwashing information on packets and packaging. I don't think products should be able to say recyclable on them unless that product can be accepted in the area it is sold in and recycled in New Zealand. Stockpiling is not acceptable. I want to know what plastics are being recycled and where. We need better controls over greenwashing in promotional materials and packaging.

Clause

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

Notes

New businesses will start and old ones will change. We need to make bold moves to evaluate, communicate and change our waste issues.